IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently amended) A manager server for centrally managing a plurality of storage servers for data replication, the manager server comprising:

a storage facility to store a data structure representing a plurality of data replication relationships for the plurality of storage servers, wherein each data replication relationship identifies data to be replicated and a destination to which the data is to be replicated, and each data replication relationship includes one or more relationship attributes;

a network adapter to connect the manager server to a network, the network including ~~a~~ the plurality of storage servers, the plurality of storage servers implementing a the plurality of data replication relationships; and

a processor to establish a replication policy for each data replication relationship, based on the one or more relationship attributes of said each data replication relationship and to apply the replication policy to one or more storage servers implementing the corresponding data replication relationship.

~~a storage facility to contain a data structure representing the plurality of data replication relationships to enable a user to centrally manage the plurality of data replication relationships.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The manager server of claim 1~~2~~, wherein each data replication relationship comprises information about a data source and a data destination, and at least one replication policy comprises an update schedule that specifies how often the data source should be replicated at the data destination.

4. (Original) The manager server of claim 3, wherein at least one replication policy comprises a throttle that specifies an amount of bandwidth that a scheduled data replication can consume.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The manager server of claim 1, wherein each storage server automatically reports one or more data replication relationships regarding data that the each storage server stores; and

the processor~~manager server uses the network adapter to update~~ updates the data structure stored in the storage facility, based on changes in the reported data replication relationships ~~implemented by the plurality of storage servers~~.

7. (Original) The manager server of claim 1, wherein the data structure comprises a database.

8. (Currently amended) The manager server of claim 1, further comprising ~~wherein allowing the user to centrally manage the plurality of data replication relationships~~

~~comprises providing~~ a graphical user interface ~~to the data structure~~to receive a user's input in relation to the replication policy.

9. (Currently amended) The manager server of claim 8, wherein the graphical user interface allows a user to author replication policies that can be applied to one or more of the plurality of storage servers~~data replication relationships~~.

10. (Original) The manager server of claim 1, wherein the storage servers comprise file servers.

11. (Currently amended) A method for centrally managing a plurality of storage servers for data replication, the method comprising:

creating a data structure representing a plurality of data replication relationships for the plurality of storage servers, wherein each data replication relationship identifies data to be replicated and a destination to which the data is to be replicated, each data replication relationship includes one or more relationship attributes, and the plurality of storage servers implement the plurality of data replication relationships;

creating a replication policy for each data replication relationship, based on the ~~that specifies~~ one or more attributes of said each data replication relationship ~~of a data replication transfer~~; and

applying the replication policy to one or more ~~a plurality of data replication relationships being implemented by a plurality of~~ storage servers which implement the corresponding data replication relationship.

12-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11~~14~~, wherein each data replication relationship comprises information about a data source and a data destination, and at least one replication policy comprises an update schedule that specifies how often the data source should be replicated at the data destination.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11~~14~~, wherein at least one replication policy comprises a throttle that specifies an amount of bandwidth that a scheduled data replication can consume.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11~~14~~, further comprising:

obtaining information about data replication relationships from the plurality of storage servers regarding data that the storage servers store; and

updating the data structure based on changes in the data replication relationships according to the information from ~~implemented by~~ the plurality of storage servers.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11~~13~~, wherein the data structure comprises a database.

20-27. (Canceled)

28. (New) A method for centrally managing a plurality of storage servers for data replication, the method comprising:

obtaining information from the plurality of storage servers about data replication relationships of data which the plurality of storage servers store, each data replication relationship including one or more relationship attributes;

establishing a replication policy for each data replication relationship based on the obtained information, including the one or more relationship attributes; and

applying the replication policy to one or more storage servers implementing the corresponding data replication relationship.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, obtaining information from the plurality of storage servers comprises receiving reports automatically sent by the storage servers about the data replication relationships.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, obtaining information from the plurality of storage servers comprises scanning configuration files stored on the storage servers to collect the information about the data replication relationship.

31. (New) A manager server for centrally managing a plurality of storage servers for data replication, the manager server comprising:

a database;

a network adapter to connect the manager server to a network, the network including the plurality of storage servers; and

a processor, coupled to the database and the network adaptor, to obtain information from the plurality of storage servers about a plurality of data replication relationships for the plurality of storage servers, each data replication relationship including one or more relationship attributes, to store the plurality of data replication relationships in the database, to establish a replication policy for each data replication relationship based on the obtained information, including the one or more relationship attributes, and to apply the replication policy to one or more storage servers implementing the corresponding data replication relationship over the network.

32. (New) The manager server of claim 31, wherein the processor obtains information from the plurality of storage servers by receiving reports automatically sent by the storage servers about the plurality of data replication relationships.

33. (New) The manager server of claim 31, wherein the processor obtains information about the plurality of data replication relationships from the plurality of storage servers by scanning configuration files stored on the storage servers.